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1733

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

DEY et al

Atty. Ref.: **3691-321**

Serial No. **09/993,908**

Group: **1733**

Filed: **November 27, 2001**

Examiner: **Gladys Josefina Piazza Corcoran**

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For: **COMPOSITE LAMINATE STRUCTURES ESPECIALLY USEFUL FOR
AUTOMOTIVE TRIM COMPONENTS, AND METHODS AND TIE LAYERS
EMPLOYED TO MAKE THE SAME**

* * * * *

November 6, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION
REQUIREMENT AND ELECTION OF CLAIMS**

Sir:

The following remarks are intended to be in complete response to the Examiner's Communication dated November 4, 2003, which set a nominal response due date of December 4, 2003, and supplements the applicants' response dated September 29, 2003.

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121, each section of the subject Amendment (e.g., Claim Amendments, Specification Amendments, Drawing Amendments and Remarks) as may be appropriate to the issues raised in the Official Action to which this paper responds, begins on a separate page. Changes to the original text, claims and the like are shown by striking through language to be deleted and underlining of language to be added.

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A laminate comprised of a thermoplastic substrate layer, a clear coat layer, and a tie layer comprised of an adhesive-enhancing effective amount of a styrenic block copolymer which adhesively bonds said substrate and clear coat layers one to another.

2. (Original) The laminate of claim 1, wherein said styrenic block copolymer is branched.

3. (Original) The laminate of claim 1, wherein said styrenic block copolymer is linear.

4. (Original) The laminate of claim 1, wherein the tie layer further comprises a blend of said styrenic block copolymer and a tackifier.

5. (Original) The laminate of claim 4, wherein the tackifier comprises a terpene resin.

6. (Original) The laminate of claim 5, wherein the terpene resin is present in an amount between about 30 wt.% to about 70 wt.% based on the total weight of the styrenic block copolymer and the tackifier.

7. (Original) The laminate of claim 5, wherein the terpene resin is present in an amount between about 40 wt.% and 60 wt.% based on the total weight of the styrenic block copolymer and the tackifier.

8. (Original) The laminate of claim 5, wherein each of the tackifier and the styrenic block copolymer is present in an amount of about 50 wt.%, based on the total weight of the styrenic block copolymer and tackifier.

9. (Original) The laminate of claim 1 or 5, wherein the substrate layer is a thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO).

10. (Original) The laminate of claim 9, wherein the clear coat layer is a polyvinyl fluoride (PVF).

11. (Original) The laminate of claim 1, wherein the clear coat layer is a polyvinyl fluoride (PVF).

12-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) A shaped article which includes a laminate according to any one of claims 1-11.

27. (Original) The shaped article of claim 23, in the form of an automotive trim component.

28. (Original) Automotive trim which comprises as a visible component a laminate comprised of a thermoplastic substrate layer, a clear coat layer, and a tie layer

comprised of an adhesive-enhancing effective amount of a styrenic block copolymer which adhesively bonds said substrate and clear coat layers one to another.

29. (Original) The automotive trim of claim 28, wherein the substrate layer includes an amount of a colorant so as to impart a predetermined color to the laminate.

30. (Original) The automotive trim of claim 29, wherein each of said clear coat and said tie layers is at least 95% transparent to visible light so that the color of the substrate layer is visible therethrough.

31. (Original) A tie layer material for adhesively bonding plastic film layers one to another to form a laminate structure thereof, said tie layer material comprising a blend of a linear or branched styrenic block copolymer and a terpene tackifier resin.

32. (Original) The tie layer of claim 31, wherein the tackifier resin is present in an amount between about 30 wt.% to about 70 wt.% based on the total weight of the styrenic block copolymer and the tackifier resin.

33. (Original) The tie layer of claim 31, wherein the tackifier resin is present in an amount between about 40 wt.% and 60 wt.% based on the total weight of the styrenic block copolymer and the tackifier resin.

34. (Original) The tie layer of claim 31, wherein each of the tackifier resin and the styrenic block copolymer is present in an amount of about 50 wt.%, based on the total weight of the styrenic block copolymer and tackifier resin.

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REMARKS

In applicants' response of September 20, 2003, the invention of Group I; i.e. claims 1 through 11 and 26-34, were elected for prosecution in this application.

Applicants also hereby elect Species A wherein the styrenic block copolymer is branched. Those claims which read on the elected Species A include claims 2 and 31, with claims 1, 4-11 and 28-30 being generic thereto.

Applicants suggest that the election of claim Group I and the cancellation, without prejudice, of claims 12-25 renders moot the requirement to elect Species I or II as stated in the September 23, 2003 Official action.

An action based on the merits of the elected claims is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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